

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending.

The Office Action rejections Claims 1, 16, 17, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. patent 6,946,229 to Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. patent 6,936,390 to Nanya et al., and Claims 1-3 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-22 of Suzuki in view of Nanya. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the features disclosed at page 39, line 7 et seq. of the specification are exemplary embodiments of the invention. Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 31, 2005 telephone discussion.

Before considering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of the independent claims would be helpful.

In this regard, independent Claim 1 discloses a toner produced by a process including dissolving or dispersing each component of a composition in an organic solvent to form a solution or dispersion. The composition includes a resin reactive with a compound having an active hydrogen group, a releasing agent, and a graft polymer C of a polyolefin resin A on which a vinyl resin B has been at least partially grafted, dispersing the solution or dispersion in an aqueous medium during at least one of elongation and crosslinking reactions of the resin reactive with a compound having an active hydrogen group thereby forming a reactant dispersion, removing the organic solvent after or during at least one of elongation and crosslinking reactions and washing and drying particles formed by removing the organic solvent.

Independent Claim 16 discloses, *inter alia*, a two-component developer for developing latent electrostatic images.

Independent Claim 17 discloses, *inter alia*, an image forming apparatus including a photoconductor, a charger, an exposer, a developing unit, a transferring unit, an image fixing unit, the image forming apparatus performing image fixing at a contact pressure between two rollers of 1.5×10^5 Pa or less.

Independent Claim 22 discloses, *inter alia*, a process cartridge including a photoconductor including at least one of a charger, a developing unit and a cleaner.

Independent Claim 23 discloses, *inter alia*, an image forming process including, *inter alia*, charging a photoconductor, exposing a photoconductor, developing an electrostatic image using a toner to form a toner image, transferring the toner image to a transfer material and a cleaning residual toner on the photoconductor.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Suzuki in view of Nanya, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), subject matter developed by another person which qualifies as prior art under § 102(e) shall not preclude patentability under § 103(c) where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby attach a Statement of Common Ownership attesting to the common ownership of the claimed invention, Suzuki and Nanya.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-23 under the judicially created obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-22 of Suzuki in view of Nanya, Applicants include a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

Dependent Claims 2-15 and 18-21 are also patentable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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